

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS

1. PRESS COMMENTS AND REMARKS MADE TO EMBASSY OFFICERS BY ISRAELI OBSERVERS REGARDING THE CARTER/MONDALE NOMINATIONS REFLECT THE CONTINUING AND INTENSE ISRAELI INTEREST IN THE U.S. POLITICAL SCENE. THESE SOURCES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ASSESS THE CANDIDATES' VIEWS ON ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND WHAT THEIR ELECTION MIGHT MEAN FOR ISRAEL.

2. MAARIV NOTEDON JULY 16 THAT CARTER'S POLICY REGARDING ISRAEL IS BASEDON THESE POINTS: THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NEVER TRY TO IMPOSE A SETTLEMENT ON ISRAEL; IT MUST PROMOTE DIRECT NEGOTIATINS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS; AND IT SHOULD NOT FORCE ISRAEL TO CEDE CONTROL OVER THE GOLAN HEIGHTS OR TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO. THE PAPER GOES ON TO NOTE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PROMOTE CAN ONLY BE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF A FIRM AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND EXISTENCE.

3. DAVAR LOOKED AT THE CHOICE OF MONDALE AS THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE THROUGH THE PRISM OF ISRAELI INTERESTS.

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IT NOTED THAT CARTER STRESSED MONDALE'S FRIENDSHIP FOR

ISRAEL AS ONE OF THE ELEMENTS INFLUENCING HIS CHOICE, AND SAID "MONDALE WAS CERTAINLY THE MOST FAVORABLE TO ISRAEL AMONG THE CANDIDATES FROM WHOM CARTER CHOSE HIS RUNNING MATE. THROUGHOUT HIS POLITICAL CAREER HE HAS CONSISTENTLY DISPLAYED LOYAL FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL AND SUPPORTED AID FOR THIS COUNTRY. HIS CLOSE TIES WITH THE AFL/CIO ARE ALSO A POSITIVE INDICATION IN THIS DIRECTION."

4. IN WHAT SEEMS A PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT ARTICLE YOEL MARCUS NOTED IN HAARETZ JULY 18 THE LACK OF DEFINITIVE FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS ON THE PART OF CARTER HIMSELF AND FOCUSED ON THE VIEWS OF HIS ADVISORS. HE MENTIONED PARTICULARLY BRZEZINSKI, WHOM HE RECENTLY INTERVIEWED IN ISRAEL, AND WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT ISRAEL MUST CLEARLY INDICATE HOW FAR IT IS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SO THAT IT DOES NOT JEOPARDIZE THE WIDE SUPPORT IT HAS IN THE UNITED STATES. MARCUS MADE THE POINT THAT JERUSALEM FEARS CARTER'S ADVISORS MIGHT PRESS FOR QUICK RESULTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: "THAT IS WHY SOME FEEL INSECURE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IF CARTER SHOULD BECOME PRESIDENT."

5. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION MARCUS TOLD US HIS ARTICLE WAS IN PART BASED ON COMMENTS MADE TO HIM BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIRECTOR GENERAL, AMOS EIRAN; IN FACT HE QUOTED EIRAN IN HIS ARTICLE AS SAYING: "AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE AN OVERALL SOLUTION MAY ALSO LEAD TO AN OVERALL CLASH WITH THE U.S." IT WAS MARCUS' CONCLUSION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE ACTIVE IN ITS RESPONSE TO THE CARTER CANDIDACY. HE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JEWISH VOTE WHICH CAN BE USED TO FORCE THE CANDIDATES TO BE EXPLICIT ON ISSUES CONCERNING ISRAEL.

6. THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM HAS SURFACED IN A RATHER UNEXPECTED MANNER. COMMENTATORS NOTED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM PROMISES TO MOVE THE EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM ALTHOUGH THEY ALSO NOTED CARTER'S CAUTION ON THIS POINT WHEN HE SAID IT WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, MAARIV REPORTED JULY 20 THAT FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIONS BY THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, CARTER EXPLAINED THAT ISRAEL UNDER-

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STANDS THAT A RELOCATION OF THE EMBASSY COULD ONLY TAKE PLACE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON IN A SPEECH TO THE JEWISH AGENCY ON JULY 15 CALLED ON AMERICANS IN HIS AUDIENCE TO DEMAND THAT PROMISES MADE BY EACH PARTY TO MOVE THE EMBASSY BE HONORED.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS APPARENTLY A GROWING BELIEF ON THE PART OF ISRAELIS THAT A NEW ADMINISTRATION (OF EITHER PARTY)

WILL BRING PRESSURE ON THE GOI NEXT YEAR TO MOVE ON
NEGOTIATIONS FASTER THAN ISRAEL WOULD WISH TO MOVE.
THE COMMENTS NOTED ABOVE REFLECT THIS BELIEF, AS WELL
AS THE CONVICTION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO
PREPARE FOR SUCH PRESSURE. SIMILAR COMMENTS ARE
SURE TO SURFACE AFTER THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION NEXT MONTH
AND DURING THE NSUING CAMPAIGN.
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